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36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the delay period comprises a duration of time sufficiently long enough for said patient to exhale and inhale.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the delay period is between approximately 6.8 and 8.0 seconds.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-referenced application based on the claim amendments provided herein and the following remarks.

As indicated by the newly added claims contained herein, the methods according to the present invention are directed at methods of generating multiple images of a patient using an imaging device. A plurality of parameter sets are loaded into the imaging device, and image data are collected for each parameter set in the plurality. This data collection is preferably conducted in a sequential manner by advancing an index through the plurality. A delay period can be used between collection steps to allow the patient to exhale and inhale. Lastly, processing of image data to produce the multiple images is conducted after all image data are collected.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest the invention. In the subject Office action, the Examiner rejected all pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), 102(e) or 103 in view of U.S. Patents to Damadian, Hurd, Riederer, and Matsutani, individually and in combination. The Examiner also rejected claims 6 through 15 under §112, objected to the drawings (Figure 4), and objected to the specification for lacking an abstract.

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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Applicants have herein provided an Abstract of the Disclosure and respectfully request that the Examiner remove his objection to the specification.

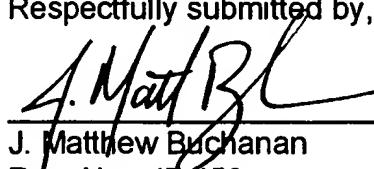
Applicants have submitted herewith, via separate letter, proposed changes to Figure 4. These proposed changes are fully supported by the original specification and do not raise any issue of new matter. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner approve the proposed changes and remove the objection to the drawings.

Lastly, Applicants have herein cancelled claims 1 through 15 and request entry of new claims 19 through 37. No single reference cited by the Examiner discloses all limitations of these newly added claims, nor does any grouping of these references suggest or motivate a combination that includes all claim limitations. Accordingly, Applicants assert that these claims clearly recite patentable subject matter and respectfully request their consideration and allowance.

Applicants request that you charge Deposit Account No. 06-1500 for any further fees which may be due. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted by,

Date: 13 November 2001



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